

# California Architects

a publication of the california board of architectural examiners

public protection through examination, licensure and regulation

## Board Member John Canestro Honored



**John C. Canestro** was recently honored at the 1999 California Building Official (CALBO) annual business meeting. Attendees at the February 28–March 3, 1999 meeting held in Rohnert Park unanimously adopted a motion to rename the CALBO Hall of

Fame the John C. Canestro Hall of Fame after the retired building official.

Canestro served as president of CALBO in 1973–74 and was named Building Official of the Year in 1985. He was inducted into the CALBO Hall of Fame in 1992, the year it was established to acknowledge people who had provided extraordinary service to the building code enforcement profession during the preceding three years.

Canestro, a CBAE public Board member since April 1997, currently serves as Board secretary. He also is a member of the Board's Regulatory and Enforcement Committee and the Executive Committee. His term expires June 1, 2000.

For more than 10 years, Canestro has operated his own consulting engineering firm in Pleasanton. Prior to starting this business, Canestro served for 18 years as the city building official for the City of Hayward and recently completed 12 years of service on the state Building Standards Commission. Canestro, a registered engineer in the State of California and a certified building official, resides in Castro Valley.

## 1999 Strategic Plan Unfolds

**by Marc Sandstrom, Board President**

The California Board of Architectural Examiners (CBAE) held its fourth annual strategic planning session February 5–6, 1999 in San Diego. Each year, the Board evaluates the environment in which CBAE and California architects operate, reviews progress on meeting goals and objectives previously set, and develops new objectives and action plans.

Our efforts this year were unique because we had before us the results of the focus group meetings we conducted in 1998. As mentioned in the 1998 fall newsletter, CBAE conducted five customer focus group meetings to gather broad-based input for the strategic planning process. Each group included representatives from a key segment of the design and construction industry that has significant interaction with California architects. The groups were:

- AIACC members
- Forensic specialists (architects, insurance representatives, attorneys)
- Institutional clients (schools, government, etc.)
- Contractors and developers
- Building officials

In January 1999, we held a sixth focus group meeting in the Board office with associates, interns, and recently licensed architects. The goal of this session was to determine how those on the pathway to licensure were prepared to meet the expectations of their future employers and clients.

To chart future strategic plan actions, the Board considered the results of these focus group meetings along with data from building official visits, the recent occupational analysis, and complaint patterns. Individually, the focus group sessions were informative; however, when

## STRATEGIC PLAN *continued*

aggregated, a significant set of common themes emerged from the six sessions that merit serious consideration by both the Board and the profession. The highlights of these themes are grouped into two categories: (1) expected architectural skills, and (2) areas of architectural skills needing improvement.

### Expected Architectural Skills

As demonstrated by the focus groups, consumers and clients desire architectural services to be delivered by well-qualified architects. The qualities an architect is expected to possess are:

#### Technical Expertise

- ability to prepare a clear and complete set of working drawings
- ability to take a concept and work with the client to get it built
- knowledge of regulatory requirements, including safety, access, and code issues
- understanding of project sustainability
- understanding of building systems, including materials, structures, and technologies
- knowledge of how a building is built (constructability)

#### Legal and Ethical Performance

- knowledge of legal requirements
- utilization of written contracts and documentation
- compliance with rules of conduct and ethical standards
- adherence to contractual obligations

#### Management Skills

- good budget and financial management

- on-time delivery
- skillful contract administration

#### Creative Abilities

- design ability, creativity, and knowledge of current design trends

#### Communication Skills

- graphic communication skills
- oral communication skills
- written communication skills

#### Leadership Skills

- demonstrated community leadership
- project management ability
- consensus building skills

### Areas of Architectural Skills Needing Improvement

Focus group participants' opinions varied both within and across focus groups regarding how performance met their expectations. While most felt that architects perform well and design competently, weaknesses were identified in the areas of technical, communication, and management skills. These are general observations that obviously do not apply to all architects; however, these comments were almost universal across all focus groups.

Focus group participants observed that problems often arise with inexperienced architects or architects that were not active in the day-to-day operations. Most felt this was attributable to "gaps" in the professional development process from formal education through internship/mentorship, professional experience, and licensing. Further, participants from outside the profession were surprised that there was no continuing education requirements similar to

those in other professions. It was also observed that liability and profitability concerns are limiting the quality of service provided by architects. Some felt that firms are "doing the minimum," although it was acknowledged that performance varies significantly among firms, as well as within firms.

Specific areas identified as needing attention are:

#### Technical Issues

- Having knowledge of codes, code updates and other regulatory requirements
- Coordinating technical documents
- Producing a complete set of plans
- Producing a set of good working drawings
- Coordinating all consultants
- Not participating in administering the construction contract
- Integrating the technical details into the overall design concept
- Understanding building systems and the construction process

#### Communication Skills

- Setting reasonable expectations with clients
- Keeping in contact with clients
- Staying involved in the entitlement and planning process
- Communicating areas of expertise and qualifications

*continued page 3*

## STRATEGIC PLAN *continued*

- Participating in civic life and professional and industry organizations
- Conducting pre-design meetings
- Conducting post-occupancy evaluations
- Focusing on big picture and customer and user needs

### Management (Business) Skills

- Handling contract administration
- Bringing project in on budget and on time

### Future Actions

The Board reviewed these identified areas of weakness and attempted to determine which areas were within CBAE's purview, and which were the responsibilities of CBAE, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the American Institute of Architects, building officials, the marketplace, or a combination thereof.

The Board concluded that its focus should be on professional and technical issues that impact public health, safety, and welfare.

The Board will continue looking at alternate means to improve candidates' experience levels and technical competence prior to licensure. That will be the primary responsibility of the Professional Qualifications Committee, chaired by Board member Ed Oremen.

To address concerns over a licensee's ability to keep current, the Board created a task force on post-licensure competency chaired by Board member Kirk Miller. They will look at CBAE's appropriate role in ensuring the continued quality of California architects after initial licensure. The task force was asked to analyze

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alternative methods for ensuring licensees' continued competency, and to recommend actions to correct the areas identified as licensee weaknesses. This is an important new area for the Board to study, and we will need the assistance of the profession in looking for CBAE's appropriate role. We

recognize that there can and will be differing views as reflected in our recent survey of California architects, where 85.9% said continuing education enhances their skills, but only 31.8% thought it should be mandatory.

We would welcome your views on the Board's 1999 initiatives. Please feel free to write or e-mail us. As we address each of the issues outlined here, we will keep you informed of our progress.

## 1998 ARE Results Released

Approximately 2,600 California candidates were eligible for the ARE during 1998. Overall results for examinations taken by California candidates in 1998 are listed below.

DIVISION	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	TOTAL PASSED	TOTAL FAILED
Building Planning	467	298 (64%)	169 (36%)
Building Technology	464	301 (65%)	163 (35%)
Construction Documents & Services	337	223 (66%)	114 (34%)
General Structures	298	182 (61%)	116 (39%)
Lateral Forces	219	169 (77%)	50 (23%)
Materials & Methods	382	283 (74%)	99 (26%)
Mechanical & Electrical Systems	314	212 (68%)	102 (32%)
Pre-Design	502	248 (49%)	254 (51%)
Site Planning	359	218 (61%)	141 (39%)

## Important ARE Application Procedures Change

Effective July 1, 1999

**New regulations are in place that require** candidates to file a one-time application and fee of \$100 for ARE eligibility evaluation, replacing the current annual application and \$35 fee process. The one-year eligibility period will be replaced with an indefinite eligibility period, as long as the candidate remains active\* in the examination process. The change goes into effect July 1, 1999.

Between now and July 1, 1999, candidates can either file an application and pay the \$35 fee for a one-year eligibility period; or wait until July 1, file a one-time application, and pay the \$100 fee for an indefinite eligibility period. Candidates who opt to file for the one-year eligibility period prior to July 1, and who do not complete all divisions of the ARE within one year, will be required to file the one-time application and pay the \$100 fee for indefinite eligibility when their one-year eligibility period expires.

Please refer to CBAE's website at [www.cbae.cahwnet.gov](http://www.cbae.cahwnet.gov) to view the new language of the regulations, specifically sections 109, 117, and 144.

*\* A candidate who has not taken an examination for five or more years shall be deemed an inactive candidate. Files of inactive candidates are purged; however, the history of the candidate's exam scores remains intact. Inactive candidates wishing to reapply for ARE eligibility will be required to resubmit an application, \$100 fee, and documentation to determine eligibility.*

## Did You Take the Exam Prior to 1983?

**To meet the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)** examination requirement for Council Certification, you must have passed an examination in accordance with NCARB requirements in effect at the time you took the exam. Prior to the current Architect Registration Examination (ARE), candidates had to pass the four-part Professional Examination (1973–1978) or Professional Examination Section B (1979–1982). NCARB required candidates to pass three parts in one sitting in order to receive credit. The failed part needed to be passed within the next two sittings.

Recent changes allow those who took the Professional Exam, but failed to pass at least three parts in the first sitting, to retain credit for any part passed per NCARB pass/fail standards. The member boards passed a resolution, effective July 1, 1996, allowing credit for any part of the professional examination that was passed. Many applicants denied the certificate prior to July 1, 1996 might now be eligible.

If you apply to NCARB for Council Certification and you meet the

council's requirements for education, training, examination, registration, and good character, you will be approved for certification. The Council Certificate can facilitate your reciprocal registration as an architect in any jurisdiction. For more information, contact NCARB at (202) 783-6500 or visit its website at [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org).

## New ARE Guidelines Recently Released

**NCARB recently released the** new ARE Guidelines to all eligible candidates. This new publication replaces the Bulletin of Information that candidates received in the past. The ARE Guidelines inform candidates about scheduling and paying for exams and result processing. It also features new items, including suggested reference materials for each division, sample vignettes, explanations of the tools for the graphics, and a change of address form.

If you are eligible to take the exam and have not received a copy, please contact the Chauncey Group International, Inc. at (800) 896-2272.

The ARE Guidelines will also be on NCARB's website at [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org) in the ARE section.

## Website Updated and Expanded

[www.cbae.cahwnet.gov](http://www.cbae.cahwnet.gov)

We continue to update the website with important news and information for architects and candidates. The site is an excellent resource regarding licensing, education, and regulatory issues that affect your practice. You'll also find a roster of licensed architects by name, address, and license number.

Because there isn't room to include the full background on every article in this newsletter, you'll often find more complete information on the website. Bookmark us and stop by often to see what's new. You'll find us at [www.cbae.cahwnet.gov](http://www.cbae.cahwnet.gov).





## Annual Building Official Survey Results Released

**CBAE annually assesses the** effectiveness of its Building Official Contact Program by asking all city and county building departments to respond to a survey regarding CBAE's services. On December 18, 1998, CBAE disseminated its 1998 annual statewide building official survey.

One hundred and eighty five building departments responded to the survey. Written comments from officials included both appreciation and praise for the Board, requests for specific assistance and training, and encouragement for the expansion of the program. Of those who had contacted the CBAE's office, 94% said they had received satisfactory service. Overwhelmingly, 96% indicated that having licensee information on CBAE's website is very helpful.

This year's survey again asked the building officials if their department contracted out for plan check review services. Seventy-three percent indicated that they do contract out for plan check review services, up 5% over the CBAE's 1997 survey results.

To reach a significant number of officials at one time, the Board's architect consultant coordinates his contacts with the California Chapters of the International Conference of Building Officials meetings. However, the Board continues to offer individual office visits and training of building and planning department personnel upon request. Survey respondents requested individual office visits (38) and training (41).

## Design/Build for Essential Facilities

**We would like to bring to your attention** a potential legal and licensing problem for architects and engineers working for some public agencies that are using a design/build approach for essential facilities. California statutes prohibit the use of the design/build process for essential buildings by architects and engineers in partnership with contractors.

You may find the statutes concerning the prohibition of an architect or an engineer working with or for a contractor for an essential facility in the California Statutes and in Title 24, the California Building Standards Code. Specifically, Health and Safety Code sections 16000 and 16013 are cited as the Essential Services Safety Act of 1986. In addition, Title 24, Part 1 (California Building Standards Administrative Code), Chapter 4, Article 1, sections 4-208 contain administrative provisions applicable to essential services facilities.

While it is up to local building officials to enforce these provisions, it is likely that many building officials and architects are unaware of these statutes. An infraction is a misdemeanor and a completed design/build essential building can be subject to expensive post-construction inspections to determine that it meets building codes.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Division of the State Architect at the following numbers:

- **Headquarters** (916) 445-8100
- **Los Angeles Region** (213) 897-3995
- **Bay Area Region** (510) 622-3109
- **San Diego Region** (619) 674-5400
- **Sacramento Region** (916) 445-8730



## Practice of Architecture Booklet Recently Published

**CBAE recently published a report** on the 1998 analysis of architectural practice in California it conducted with the assistance of Professional Management and Evaluation Services, Inc., the test vendor for the CBAE California Supplemental Examination.

The Practice of Architecture in California provides information on the distinct aspects of architectural practice in California; the goals and process for the Job Analysis Survey CBAE conducted; comparison of current and previous job analysis surveys; results of the survey including tables of tasks and knowledges in order of ranking; and the resultant Test Plan that is the basis for the California Supplemental Examination. The report provides information to various segments of the architectural profession, including educators and professional and public organizations, and can be viewed on CBAE's website at [www.cbae.cahwnet.gov](http://www.cbae.cahwnet.gov) in the News Item section.





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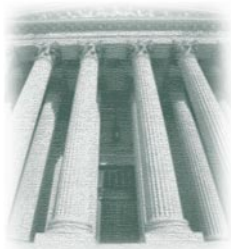
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## Inside This Issue

Canestro Honored .....	1
1999 Strategic Plan .....	1
ARE Results .....	3
ARE Change .....	4
Recent NCARB Certification Changes ...	4
CBAE Website Updated .....	4
Building Official Survey Results .....	5
Essential Facilities .....	5
Practice of Architecture Booklet .....	5
Enforcement Actions .....	6

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## Enforcement Actions

The CBAE is responsible for receiving and screening complaints against licensees and performing some of the investigation into these complaints. The Board also retains the authority to make final decisions on all enforcement actions taken against its licensees.

Included below are brief descriptions of recent enforcement actions taken by the Board against its licensees and unlicensed persons who were found to be in violation of the Architects Practice Act.

Every effort is made to ensure that the following information is correct. Before making any decision based upon this information, you should contact the Board. Further information on specific violations may also be obtained by contacting the Board.

### Administrative Action

#### FRED JAMES BOZZO (Turlock)

Effective March 11, 1999, Fred James Bozzo's architect license #C-9602 was revoked; however, the revocation was stayed, his license was suspended for 90 days, and he was placed on probation for five years with specific terms and conditions, including reimbursement to the Board for \$6,210 for its investigative and prosecution costs. An Accusation was filed against Mr. Bozzo for violations of Business and Professions Code section 5584 (Negligence). The action was taken based on evidence that Mr. Bozzo failed to 1) personally, or with the assistance of another party that was properly trained and licensed to perform structural investigations, verify all existing conditions; 2) consult the clients before exceeding the estimated fee of \$5,000; 3) establish a method for timely and effective communication between the complainants and himself; 4) respond in a timely and adequate manner to the requests of the clients for information about the project; 5) establish a mutually agreeable method for creating and updating a project schedule; and 6) provide a project to the clients that identified a date for completion.

### TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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